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CPYRGHT

# National Student Parley Hails Call to Defeat LBJ

By TIM WHEELER

**DELEGATES** to the annual congress of the National Student Association last Monday cheered a proposal that students mount a campaign to defeat Lyndon B. Johnson in the 1968 Presidential election. The proposal came in a speech by Allard K. Lowenstein, a past president of the NSA, who had once been involved in the Central Intelligence Agency's manipulation of the organization.

Lowenstein urged the delegates to organize "Non-Partisans Against the Presidents," and declared:

"This congress can be a launching pad for a decision to make 1968 the year when students help change a society almost everyone agrees is headed for destruction."

Eugene Groves, NSA president, in a report to the annual congress, called for unilateral withdrawal of the NSA from the "cold war of international student politics." The appeal was based on last winter's expose of CIA infiltration into the NSA.

Radical students at the congress, some of them duly elected delegates, expressed skepticism, however, at claims that NSA had substantially severed its ties with the government.

## NEW PROGRAM NEEDED

Lawrence Billick, who represents the W.E.B. DuBois Clubs of America at the NSA congress, told The Worker, "NSA has not fully repudiated the cold war. It must drop anti-communism from its program and present a more militant program to defend the interests of students, to win the support and confidence of American students."

"We must fight through and on the convention floor to change the content of NSA, to change the structure, the financing, the program of the organization to rid it of all State Department influence."

"NSA has expressed limited opposition to the war in Vietnam in the past. But at this congress we should fight on the floor for adopting a position of principled and militant opposition to the war."

Billick said the key to winning a floor fight would be the unity of radicals and others in the congress who are opposed to the war in Vietnam and to the CIA, and who are seeking an independent student organization which champions the interests of the students.

But the possibility of a successful floor fight at this congress to win acceptance of this program was endangered by some radical students who organized on the opening day of the Congress, a "counter-convention." A statement issued by Students For a Democratic Society, which is organizing the "counter-convention" along with individuals from Ramparts magazine, says:

"The CIA may have left NSA but the policies that made NSA a logical CIA front remain."

The "liberal program of NSA, it adds, is not adequate to bring about fundamental social change needed to create a democratic society in America."

## ASK BOYCOTT

A spokesman for SDS in the N.Y. office told The Worker, "We are asking radical speakers to boycott the NSA Congress and speak to our 'counter-con-

gress' instead. So far this has been quite successful."

He said SDS members had been elected as delegates to the NSA congress but were being discouraged by SDS from waging a floor fight on the floor of the Congress to transform NSA into a democratic organization.

"We consider that pretty hopeless," he said. "We couldn't get the necessary votes."

This reporter asked the spokesman why radicals could not combine the "counter-congress" which would publicly air important issues outside the congress with a vigorous floor fight inside the congress. He said, "If

we conducted a floor fight we would be playing into the hands of the leadership."

## OPPOSE BOYCOTT

Billick said the DuBois Club disagreed with the boycott of NSA. "We can't afford," he declared, "to abandon the fight just when it's getting hot. By abandoning the fight now we eliminate the most militant and articulate spokesmen of the liberal caucus; and when you do that you strengthen the hand of the conservative caucus."

Some in SDS carry the boycott of NSA to the stage of calling for creation of a new student union organization based on individual student membership.

Billick said the DuBois Club does not have a settled position on the feasibility of organizing a new national student organization.

"If NSA can't be revised and changed then we will take up the question of a new organization," he said.

"In any case, a national student union would not be a substitute."

NSA, he said, has a different basis for existence as a center of liberal and democratic student movement.

Earlier this year NSA leaders had been exposed as recipients of CIA funds and agents in the international student movement for the U.S. State Department. Students representing the U.S. in foreign countries were called upon to spy for the U.S. whenever they visited socialist countries, to write reports when they attended international student meetings, and to carry abroad arguments in support of U.S. foreign policy, which in fact came down to apologies for U.S. anti-communism and the cold war.

The International Affairs Department of NSA violated the letter of a mandate issued to it by the NSA congress of 1950 not to split the international student movement. The 1950 congress of NSA voted not to affiliate with the International Union of Students. It was a repeated attempt by the leadership of NSA to authorize NSA to set up an anti-communist rival to the IUS.

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